

Future Classroom Ambassadors

ACTIVITY DIGEST

Issue #10, June 2020

You will not be surprised that almost all entries of this digest refer to the COVID-19 crisis. Like so many educators and other stakeholders, the Future Classroom Ambassadors came into action to support students and teacher communities in their countries. Some of them also contributed to the FCL Talks, the European webinars organised by European Schoolnet. More info: [Fcltalks](#).

Let's hope for better times, but also: enjoy the summer break.



BELGIUM

Learning “in je kot”

On March 14th all schools in Belgium were suddenly closed until further notice. But it was amazing to see that learning didn't stop. Teachers started to create learning materials so that their pupils could continue to learn from home. Industry helped as well. Smartschool, the most used ELE in Flanders built and launched Smartschool Live in 2 days. This enabled teachers to teach online. Also publishers were very active. They made a lot of their online learning materials available for free. All these efforts by so many teachers and other stakeholders in education made it possible to continue teaching and learning.

The Corona crisis forced all teachers to go digital. Teachers discovered methodologies like Flipped Classroom or WebQuests. Corona opened a whole new world. On the other hand, Corona has shown us, again, inequity in society. Not every pupil had a computer available to work on. Even worse, the most vulnerable pupils had the hardest time during the lockdown. Schools, communities and government took initiatives to make sure every pupil had a laptop available.

Maybe the hardest part was the lack of social contact. If there is one thing that has become very clear over the last months, is that learning is social interaction.

Corona definitely changed the way we teach and learn. And we will probably have to use these approaches again over the following months. But on the other hand, it might be a good thing to keep the good practices we have learned alive.



CZECH REPUBLIC

17 June 2020

The FCL Lead ambassador organised a two-hour webinar on STEM. The webinar will be open to all teachers from all over the Czech Republic. Teachers learned about the concept of the FCL, its use in primary and high schools, especially for teaching STEM subjects.



DENMARK

Online collaborative challenges

Corona times caused a shutdown of the physical Future Classroom lab Denmark and moved us onto online platforms. Online teaching is often limited to individual work. We wanted to bring into practice one of the key values of FCL DK which is *Learning is a social activity. You do something with somebody*. Also: we wanted to create the experience of having an online learning space and not just a training area.

In the current period we created online communities for students with the focus on collaboration and co-creation. Although physically separate, students work together on common projects.

FCL Denmark organised various challenges where children and adults across the country worked together.:

Hackerkortspil – Hackergame ([More info](#))

Æggeløbet – Eggrun ([More Info](#))

Remedierne af filmscener - Sweeded films ([More info](#))



ESTONIA

Teachers switch to distance learning and the majority of students like it

As schools transitioned to distance learning at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Estonia trained a record number of teachers to switch to online classrooms. The *IT Foundation for Education* trained more teachers in two months than it usually does in one school year.

Teachers were eager and active on online platforms in order to cope and even excel at teaching their students over the internet. Overall, preliminary studies of the distance learning period show that a surprisingly high number of students – over 60% - look back positively on the experience.



FRANCE

Regional news

Brittany

Thierry Vanpevenage, FCL local ambassador, has created a training course for schools entitled *New pedagogical practices and redefinition of learning spaces*. The course aims at supporting school heads and their teaching staff over 2 years to evolve towards innovative practices in new learning spaces. The training uses an AGILE approach, with a horizontal and co-constructive active pedagogy, built and adapted to each school according to its needs and constraints.

Alsace

FCL lab is on its way at Neuf-Brisach primary school. A partnership with research and teacher training is led by local FCL ambassador *Laurent Lanneau* and focuses on pupils' cooperation. A group of education professionals will conduct field observation sessions and interviews with pupils. The synthesis of this research aims both at assessing the added value of a flexible space and improving its inner organization.



FINLAND

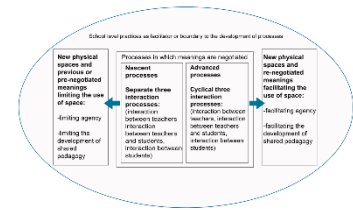
FCLLab II

In Finland, FCL operations are financed through project applications. The current phase of the Finnish FCLab-project will be completed at the end of June. We have applied for further funding from the National Board of Education and we hope, of course, that we will receive a positive funding decision.

The new FCLab II project brings new innovative learning environments and labs to Finland. The network expands to two teacher training schools in Helsinki and two new cities in the Finnish FCL network, Jyväskylä and Vaasa. We are looking forward to new opportunities in both national and international cooperation. We will focus on developing zone models in open learning environments and we will be involved in researching and developing learning analytics.

Meanwhile the academic research on flexible spaces continues in Finland. Recently a new relevant article was published: *From physical spaces to learning environments: processes in which physical spaces are transformed into learning environments*. The study describes the experiences of open learning environments and emphasizes that the changes in learning spaces also require changes in the schools' operational cultures.

[\(More info\)](#)



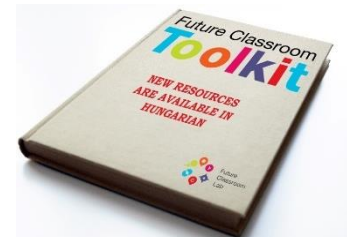
HUNGARY

March 2020

New FCL Toolkit resources, part of Toolset 5, are now available in Hungarian.

June-July 2020

The FCL course accreditation based on the updated FCL Toolkit is in process. The new course will be soon available for teachers. The aim of the course is to teach the educators how to use the FCL Toolkit and help them renew their teaching practices by writing interesting scenarios and creating student-centred learning activities.



ITALY

Spring 2020

The *Future Lab Lorenzo Farinelli* at IIS Savoia-Benincasa Ancona did not stop working even in time of the coronavirus lockdown. A series of remote training activities, including 7 workshops on G suite for Education and a series of webinars on themes ranging from leadership to assessment, from active learning strategies like TEAL, debates, MLTV frame, to teaching design and digital learning contents, has been launched and carried out in the past period. The trainings have been very successful in terms of participation and appreciation.

The project *Educare al futuro e alla vita - SMART LEARNING per un apprendimento attivo in modalità blended* [Educate to future and life - SMART LEARNING for an active learning in blended mode] was honoured with the participation of renowned Italian lecturers and trainers and got the support of important institutions and networks like the Avanguardie Educative movement (INDIRE).



ISRAEL

COVID19 Remote Learning

The shutdown of schools due to Covid19 forced schools across Israel to engage in remote learning. Within a short period of time, schools managed to build an online curriculum which included educational and emotional activities using various remote learning platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Google G-suite.

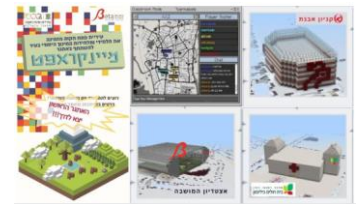
Online course: Redesign the learning experience the New Normal

The closure of schools following the outbreak of the Corona virus has given educators the experience of the virtual world in real time and with the full power. Teachers changed habits, adopted innovations, and entered new worlds.

In collaboration with the Center of PD in Petah Tikva, the Beta FCL developed and launched an online course to empower participants for the new normal. Forty educators enrolled, among them school principals, coordinators, and teachers. The course structure consists of synchronous asynchronous units and empowers educators to enhance learning in a virtual environment.

Minecraft Weekly Challenge

To keep students engaged during the school closure FCL Beta released a Minecraft Weekly Challenge. The first Challenge was to build Petah Tikva in a Minecraft World.



MALTA

March 2020– May 2020

All hands were on deck at the Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills during the Covid-19 crisis. All the Digital Literacy Team together with the FCL Ambassadors supported all educators and education leaders across all schools throughout our country, covering both public and private schools.

Part of this support consisted of online training on the platforms mainly used in schools and how to set up virtual classes for remote teaching and learning. Different platforms were explored according to the schools' request. Yet since all schools have access to Office 365, the main focus was on MS Teams. Educators were also supported and guided during the first online sessions done with their students. Webinars were delivered on various Web2.0 Tools on how to engage and motivate students during these extra-ordinary times. The webinars were delivered both on a national level and for school clusters. Teachers could fill in an online form to get support. Other support provided by our team included the creation of video tutorials and one-2-one support.

All this support will be available till the end of the school year.



PORTUGAL

Spring 2020

Online Conferences

With the purpose of sharing innovative teaching and learning practices, a set of six online video conferences, entitled *Partilhas à quarta* were carried out with the overall support of the projects *Laboratórios de Aprendizagem* and *eTwinning*. During each of the one-hour sessions, teachers shared their experiences developed within the curricular context framework. The recordings are available on the website of the project: [more info](#).

Training courses & MOOC

The two implemented teacher training courses, *Creating and implementing active learning scenarios* (50 hours) and *Active learning strategies using ICT* (30 hours)



qualified more than 150 teachers and the final outcome of these training courses exceeded the expectations.

The MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) *Active Learning Scenarios* (25 hours) finished with the impressive result of about 2300 registrations and a 26% conclusion rate.

SLOVAKIA

Spring 2020

At the time of the coronavirus, a number of webinars and online trainings to support teachers took place in Slovakia. The transition to online education has been very challenging for some schools, and teachers have sought help and inspiration for their online teaching.

eTwinning Slovakia, represented by *Kornélia Lohyňová*, organized a Teachmeet on *How to teach at distance*. FCL local ambassador *Eva Polláková* together with *Monika Ďurková*, both from Bilingual English/Slovak Primary and Secondary School BESST, contributed to the topic with entries about the planning and implementation of online education at school from the point of view of school leaders and using different applications (e.g. ZOOM) for the teaching process.



SPAIN

A new Aula del Futuro in Extremadura

CPR Zafra in Extremadura created its own Aula del Futuro. The new educative space is based on the Future Classroom Lab by European Schoolnet and will host different initiatives for professional development. This Aula del Futuro is a meeting point for the educative community in Extremadura about new methodologies.

[More info](#)

Aula del Futuro Online

As a way to support Spanish teachers with their online teaching during the COVID19 pandemic we started a new initiative called *Aula del Futuro Online* where learning activities and learning scenarios were shared by different teachers and ambassadors.

[More info](#)

Online course Aula del Futuro Second Edition

The second edition of the INTEF FCL tutorial online course has been launched and will end on 17 November. This course targets active teachers who teach in public schools, but also teacher training advisers, educational administrators and members of the counselling department.

[More info](#)



TURKEY

April-May 2020

School closures due to COVID-19 have increased cooperation in education. FCL Lead Ambassador, *Sümeyye Hatice Eral*, organized an online meeting for FCL local ambassadors to discuss the possible solutions, main challenges faced, and strategies to support educators to design future learning spaces.

The Turkish Local FCL Ambassadors organized online events for teachers. *Adil Tuğyan*, designed an interactive MOOC for Turkish teachers. 3229 teachers participated to the *Designing Future Classroom MOOC* and had a collaborative and interactive learning experience using web.2.0 tools. Adil Tuğyan also organized a webinar titled *Technopedagogic Approach to Designing Future Classrooms*.

June

The Local FCL ambassadors, experienced in project-based learning, keep on supporting teachers during school closures. *Can Erdoğan* organized the webinar *eTwinning and Future Classroom* for teachers on 12 June and shared his best practices at [Mosaic Lab](#).

Future Classroom Lab Lead Ambassador, *Sümeyye Hatice Eral*, and project officer *Ceyda Özdemir* gave an online presentation on *Designing Future Classroom and Active Learning* for a regional event organized in Denizli, Turkey.



For further information on the Future Classroom Ambassadors, please contact Bart Verswijvel - bart.verswijvel@eun.org